

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 24-81 are pending in this application, with Claims 24, 28, 33, 41, 46, 49-51, 64, 70, and 75 being independent.

Claims 24, 28, 33, 41, 46, 49-51, 64, 70, and 75 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 24-81 stand variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by or obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,302,811 (Fukatsu). Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 24, the present invention is directed to an accounting method. As discussed in the Background section of the specification, one conventional type of accounting method for the distribution of toll-based information is called a “super distribution” method. However, that method has the drawbacks, among others, that data must be stored concerning user IDs and use history of users, which results in cumbersome management of user specific data and decreased privacy for users. The present invention recited in Claim 24 is directed to overcoming such drawbacks, and it does so by including, *inter alia*, the feature of processing electronic information so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by an information provider in accordance with a permission signal. With this feature, the use of electronic information can be managed without the need to manage a large amount of user specific information, and also the privacy of users can be protected.

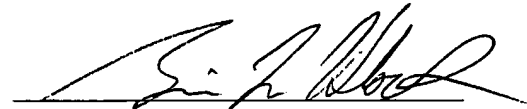
Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned feature of Claim 24. In particular, Fukatsu merely discloses that a customer may buy merchandise if money information that is input is greater than the price of the merchandise. However, in that system, the object of the purchase is merchandise rather than electronic information, as recited in Claim 24. Moreover, Fukatsu does not disclose or suggest processing of electronic information, nor does it suggest processing of the merchandise being sold. Accordingly, that patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of processing electronic information so as to enable use of the electronic information in accordance with a permission signal.

The remaining independent claims recite a similar feature and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 24. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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